Domnus II of Antioch

(fl. c. 441 – c. 449)

BRIEFING

Domnus II of Antioch was the Patriarch of Antioch (441 – 449), nephew of John I of Antioch, and friend of the influential Theodoret of Cyrrhus.

BIOGRAPHY

Domnus was ordained deacon by the Patriarch Juvenal of Jerusalem in 429 and remained at the Monastery of St. Euthymius in Palestine for two years. In 431, he left the monastery to aid his uncle, Patriarch John I of Antioch, as part of the Nestorian controversy. Domnus went to Antioch to support proponents of the School of Antioch in favour of Nestorianism against supporters of Patriarch of Alexandria Cyril of Alexandria and his successor Dioscurus I.

In 441, upon the death of his uncle, Domnus was elected successor with support he had acquired in Antioch. In 445, he summoned a synod of Syrian bishops and confirmed the deposition of Athanasius of Perrha. In 447, Domnus II consecrated Irenaeus to the see of Tyre (Theodoret, *Epistle* 110); but emperor Theodosius II, commanded that the appointment should be annulled on the grounds that Irenaeus was both a *digamus* and a supporter of Nestorianism - Iranaeus had formerly been a Roman count and friend of Nestorius at Council of Ephesus, having helped protect him. Moreover, Domnus II defended Ibas, bishop of Edessa, against charges of promulgating Nestorian doctrines, and summoned a council at Antioch (448) which decided in favor of Ibas and deposed his accusers. Domnus II's sentence, though revoked by Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople, was confirmed by three episcopal commissioners to whom he and the emperor Theodosius II had committed the matter.

As a result, he was deposed at the Second Council of Ephesus on 8 August 449. Cowed by the authoritarian spirit of Dioscorus of Alexandria, and unnerved by the violence of Barsumas and his monks, Domnus II revoked his former condemnation of Eutyches, and voted for the condemnation of Flavian of Constantinople, but in vain. He was the only bishop then deposed and banished who was not reinstated after the Council of Chalcedon – though this may have been by request so he could retire to his beloved monastery.

At that council Maximus II of Antioch, his successor in the see of Antioch, obtained permission to assign Domnus II a pension from the revenues of the church, and on his recall from exile Domnus II returned to the monastic home of his youth, ending his days in the Monastery of St. Euthymius, where in 452, according to Theophanes the Confessor, he afforded a refuge to Juvenal of Jerusalem when he was driven from his see (Theophanes, p. 92).